United Nations A/61/684–S/2006/1032

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 17 and 27

Security Council
Sixty-first year

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 27 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the appeal of the Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Council of Europe, State Department and Congress of the United States of America, Parliament of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Duma of the Russian Federation on the so-called "constitutional referendum" of the illegal military regime in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 17 and 27 of the agenda of its sixty-first session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-68526 (E) 040107

Annex to the letter dated 27 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Communication from the Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, the Department of State and the Congress of the United States of America, the French Parliament, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Duma of the Russian Federation

We, the participants of the Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan, express our profound indignation at and strong protest against the so-called "constitutional referendum" which took place in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 10 December 2006. This is another defiant provocation staged by the Republic of Armenia and the military occupation regime in a territory that legally belongs to our country.

The separatists have deliberately carried out this objectionable act, which contradicts not only the Constitution of Azerbaijan but also the relevant norms and principles of international law. It is precisely for this reason that the "referendum" will have no legal effect whatever, and its results will be deemed a priori invalid. We are convinced that Armenia, which is officially recognized as an aggressor State, will once again fail in its attempt to mislead the international community, which has ample information about the monstrous policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by Armenia against the peoples of Azerbaijan. As a result, 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan is today under occupation, and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis, Russians, Kurds and persons of other nationalities have become refugees. This policy of genocide has turned Armenia into a mono-ethnic State, with all the associated consequences.

For centuries, representatives of dozens of nations and peoples have lived in peace and harmony in Azerbaijan. Together with Azerbaijanis, they have shared joy and sorrow; in times of trial, they have taken up arms and given their lives to defend the freedom and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, which is their genuine homeland. Because the national minorities are self-sufficient, they have never felt disadvantaged in any way, and today they enjoy all the rights accorded to citizens of a sovereign and democratic country, while preserving and developing their culture, language and traditions. This was made possible through the sound national policy which was consistently implemented by the national leader Heydar Aliyev, and which is being successfully continued by his successor, President Ilham Aliyev. It is he who is now the firm guarantor of respect for the rights and freedoms of all the country's citizens, irrespective of nationality or creed.

The Armenian people who were resettled in the highland part of Karabakh two centuries ago are citizens of Azerbaijan who have always enjoyed equal rights with the rest of the population.

Armenian schools were functioning in Nagorno-Karabakh, the territory had its own theatre and higher education institution, and Armenians held senior leadership positions and State posts.

However, it is clear that some forces found it advantageous to destroy the inter-ethnic peace and harmony in Azerbaijan and to sow the seeds of discord.

The Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan takes this opportunity to declare its full support for the efforts of the Azerbaijani leadership to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict relating to Nagorno-Karabakh on the basis of international law. President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly declared his willingness to grant Nagorno-Karabakh the utmost autonomy, provided that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is preserved. However, the policy and actions of the national separatists are aimed at disrupting the peace talks, as demonstrated clearly by the so-called "constitutional referendum" that was announced.

Similar actions by those who are attempting to undermine the peace process run counter to generally accepted democratic standards and values, the rule of law and human rights.

The Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan calls on the United Nations, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Department of State and the Congress of the United States of America, the French Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Duma of the Russian Federation, and the whole international community to condemn this illegal act, to refuse to recognize the results of the so-called referendum and to firmly support efforts to find ways of resolving this long-standing conflict in compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, in order to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the region.

The participants of the Congress of National Minorities of Azerbaijan

The Russian Community of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) M. Zabelin

The "Samur" National Lezgin Centre
(*Signed*) M. Muradagaev

The Religious Community of Mountain Jews
(*Signed*) S. Ikhiilov

The Religious Community of European Jews
(*Signed*) G. Zelmanovich

The Talysh Cultural Centre
(*Signed*) S. Asadullaev

The Ukrainian Community of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) A. Zarechny

The Tatar Community of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) E. Ilyazova

The "Sodruzhestvo" National Society
(*Signed*) T. Kerimova

The "Ronakhi" Kurdish Cultural Centre
(*Signed*) K. Gasanov

The Georgian Community of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) R. Gvaladze

The Community of Ingilos in Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) S. Buladzheva

The "Argo" Greek Community of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*) I. Pilidzhev/Kharai

The "Vozrozhdenie" German National Cultural Association
(*Signed*) A. Safarov

The "Veten" Turkish Society
(*Signed*) I. Burkhanov

Baku, 14 December 2006